GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:543
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
WATER HARVESTING
Ajaya Kumar Shri S.;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched water harvesting schemes to enhance agriculture production;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to consult experts to ensure water availability for agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION N0.543 FOR REPLY ON 14.05.2007 REGARDING WATER HARVESTING

Several measures for development and management of irrigation are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. State Governments conceive, plan and implement major, medium and minor irrigation schemes (both surface and ground water). Storage capacity of about 213 BCM has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 76 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM. Government of India is providing central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes / programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme; National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture etc. The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the UPA Government has laid due emphasis on irrigation. The Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and recharge to groundwater for conservation of water.

The Ministry of Water Resources has constituted `Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council` under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources with the objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among all stakeholders and its adoption. This Council comprises of experts from various Central Ministries / Departments viz. Rural Development / Urban Development / Agriculture / Environment & Forests / States / UTs / Financial Institutions / Industries / Public Undertakings and renowned NGOs / subject experts.